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FOR THE SECRETARY AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT FROM THE AMBASSADOR
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TAGS PREL, PGOV, UNMIK, KV
SUBJECT: SCENESSETTER FOR THE VISIT OF KOSOVO PRESIDENT
SEJDIU AND PRIME MINISTER THACI TO WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 26, 2008
Classified By: AMBASSADOR TINA KAIDANOW FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

11. (C) It has been a difficult but in many ways successful year since Kosovo declared its independence on February 17, 2008. Though we spent a great deal of time in the last year discussing the challenges of the transition, the reality is that Kosovo's temperate line is in many ways due to the leadership of President Sejdiu and Prime Minister Thaci, two men of very different backgrounds and political philosophies. The previous administration was unable to make significant steps on key issues of importance to the West, including on ICTY commitments, and has pursued a policy of quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs. The Kosovo government remains prepared to engage in quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs.

12. (C) Kosovo's challenges are not limited to the political and security realm. Last year's Donors Conference saw over \$1.5 billion pledged in support of Kosovo's development, but the government has yet to fully utilize these resources. The government has yet to fully utilize these resources, and the challenges ahead are significant. The government has yet to fully utilize these resources, and the challenges ahead are significant.

13. (C) And those encroachments will likely persist, even under the pro-European government of Serbian President Tadic in Belgrade. The previous administration was unable to make significant steps on key issues of importance to the West, including on ICTY commitments, and has pursued a policy of quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs. The Kosovo government remains prepared to engage in quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs.

14. (C) While Tadic has made significant steps on key issues of importance to the West, including on ICTY commitments, he has pursued a policy of quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs. The Kosovo government remains prepared to engage in quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs.

15. (C) The Kosovo government remains prepared to engage in quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs. The Kosovo government remains prepared to engage in quiet diplomacy with Serbia via EU mediation, and has held open those positions in the political and security realms that were once occupied by local Serbs in anticipation of any signal from Belgrade to the Kosovo Serb community that they are free to resume a more active role in the country's affairs.

16. (C) Kosovo's challenges are not limited to the political and security realm. Last year's Donors Conference saw over \$1.5 billion pledged in support of Kosovo's development, but the government has yet to fully utilize these resources. The government has yet to fully utilize these resources, and the challenges ahead are significant. The government has yet to fully utilize these resources, and the challenges ahead are significant.

17. (C) Sejdiu and Thaci may reaffirm their conviction that U.S. troop contributions in Kosovo remain essential, particularly since U.S. forces